(c) These issues would be addressed in the civil aviation policy, which is under preparation.

LPG agencies in Nagaland

*212. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies allotted in Nagaland during the last three years;

(b) the target fixed for allotment of LPG agencies in the State during the above period; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) During the last three years, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have allotted 2 LPG distributorships in the State of Nagaland. In addition, 1 LPG distributorship has been allotted during 2004-05 (upto June), which will take the total number of distributorships in the State to 25.

(b) At present, three locations in earlier marketing plans are pending for interview in Nagaland.

(c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) plans to complete the interviews before September, 2004 and commission the distributorship within the financial year 2004-05.

Reduction in social sector spending by States

*213. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cash strapped State Governments have been trying to bring their fiscal deficit under control by drastically cutting down their social sector spending;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the reduced spending on social sector affects the vital public services leading to enhancement of poverty;

(c) if so, whether Government have carried out any study to find out reasons for stagnation in the expenditure on social services by majority States; and